



The Anishinabek Nation held its 8th Annual Lands and Resources Forum, Kina-Gego-Naabadosin – Everything is Connected, at the Best Western in North Bay, Ont., from February 13 to 15. From left: Nmishomis Mike Esquega (Northern Superior Region), Nmishomis Leroy Dolson (Southwest Region), Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe, Northern Superior Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief Melvin Hardy. - Photo by Laura Barrios

Inherent rights highlighted at the 8th annual Anishinabek Nation Lands and Resources Forum

By Kelly Anne Smith

NORTH BAY— Concerns of climate change, extreme mining claims, and the health of the Great Lakes were heard over three days at the 8th annual Anishinabek Nation Lands and Resources Forum, Kina-Gego-Naabadosin – Everything is Connected, at the Best Western in North Bay, Ont., from February 13 to 15.

Presentations and workshops were given by Indigenous and industry experts, as well as government representatives, providing opportunities for networking and discussion on successes and challenges.

In opening remarks, Anishinabek Nation Northern Superior Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief Melvin Hardy, a citizen of Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek says environmental issues must be prioritized. He spoke of concern that climate change and the erratic weather are affecting the harvesting livelihood of First Nation members.

"Up in Thunder Bay, we had a green Christmas in our area until probably in January. We know Mother Earth is trying to heal [herself] because of what's occurring on our lands. A lot of people who harvest in the wintertime on the lakes are unable to do so because of the fact they can't even go on the ice."

Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe, a citizen of Mississauga #8 First Nation, says it is critical now more than ever to take scope of mandates and to communicate the latest efforts and collective work that is being done at the regional and community levels.

"The Anishinabek Nation as a whole is an incredibly diverse territory that is abundant in resources. We know this. Our communities all face unique challenges and a variety of hurdles when it comes to lands and resources. Finding balance between stewardship, building infrastructure, and creat-

ing sovereign wealth requires a careful and skilled approach," he explained. "Right now, we are living in a world where we are seeing a drastically changing climate that is shifting our ecosystems and creating an urgent sense of direction that we must collectively work towards."

Later, the Anishinabek Nation Leadership Panel talked of the lands and resources being affected in various ways across the various regions. The Leadership Panel included Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe, Northern Superior Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief Melvin Hardy, and Nmishomis Mike Esquega of Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinabek First Nation and Nmishomis Leroy Dolson of Munsee Delaware Nation, both representatives of the Getzidjig Advisory Council for the Anishinabek Nation.

Northern Superior Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief Melvin Hardy says

the Northern Superior and Huron regions are most affected by mining. Grand Council Chief Niganobe talked of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and free prior informed consent must be fully implemented in Ontario for First Nations to participate, give perspectives, and give permission for the land to be utilized.

"We have to be incorporated into all levels of government, both federal and provincial. There has to be an equal footing on all sides where we are equal with them. We deserve that as a First Nation's peoples on this land."

Nmishomis Dolson informed about a hydro line cutting through the land in the southwest region from Sarnia to London; Aamjiwnaang First Nation living in chemical valley and experiencing chemical spills; and

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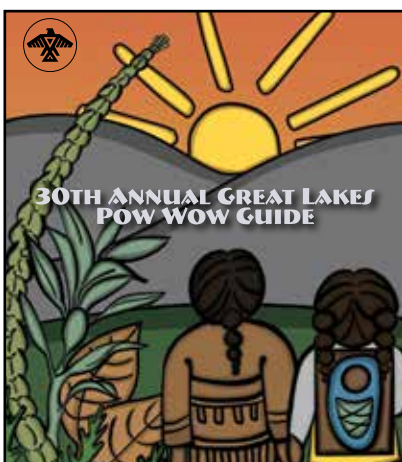
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Ontario Regional Chief Glen Hare, Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe, Georgina Island First Nation Chief Donna Big Canoe, Beausoleil First Nation Chief Joanne Sandy, National Chief Cindy Woodhouse and Chippewas of Rama First Nation Chief Ted Williams in Rama First Nation, February 22, 2024.

Quarterly Political Update

A New Year is upon us and as we start to experience the thaw of the colder season and welcome the impending longer days, we are beginning to prepare for an exciting and eventful spring. Despite a shorter season, there have been some notable events and important meetings over the past few months and the Executive remains steadfast in its advocacy efforts.

Before we embarked on the holiday season, the executive supported Anishinabek leadership and regional lobbying efforts in Ottawa during the second week of December. Along with Chiefs of Ontario delegates and members of the leadership council, we met with a few federal representatives including Member of Parliament Daniel Blaikie, Shadow Minister Bob Zimmer, Member of Parliament Adam Chambers, and Member of Parliament Marcus Powlowski. Top regional priorities were discussed and we were able to iterate our continued opposition to Bill C-53 and other critical legislation that is impacting First Nations across the province.

During the same week, members of the Executive attended the Assembly of First Nations Special Chiefs Assembly and witnessed the National Chief Election where Cindy Woodhouse was elected for a three-and-a-half-year term. We send our best wishes to Cindy in her new role and look forward to working with her in our collective advocacy efforts over the coming months.

The following week, members of the Executive headed to Thunder Bay to participate in an Indigenous Leadership Forum with the Thunder Bay Police Services (TBPS). While vital messaging was conveyed over the course of the forum, the Executive looks forward to more meaningful engagement with the TBPS in the future. It is our wish and the wish of many First Nations peoples living in the area, to see positive outcomes and tangible solutions to the historic problems that continue to plague the TBPS and the Indigenous population of the city and surrounding area. More recently, Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe met with the Special Investigations Unit regarding a high-profile case and subsequently met

with members of the TBPS Board along with Northern Superior Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief Mel Hardy to talk about how improvements are necessary.

Just before the holiday shutdown, we had an opportunity to meet with the Anishinabek Nation commissioners and Nation Council. Our newly mandated 2SLGBTQQIA+ and Niniwag Advisory Councils have provided enriching contributions to our meetings. There continue to be some vacancies on these new committees and we will be putting effort into recruitment over the coming months.

The same week, we also met with Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Gary Anandasangaree and where we once again reiterated our opposition to Bill C-53 and provided context of the history of the Anishinabek. It continues to be a contentious issue for all First Nations in Ontario and specifically for Anishinabek where we believe there are some misconceptions surrounding identity and citizenship that are exacerbating this issue. As the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) continues to advance its agenda, we continue to strongly oppose the government's actions and ignorance of our inherent rights and jurisdiction.

Early in the New Year, Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe also met with former Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief John Beaucage to clarify a recent meeting with the MNO that was publicized through social media. It was an opportunity to share information and gain perspective on the political landscape and relationship-building efforts that took place at the time of John's leadership. While there were some friendly relationship-building efforts made during his tenure, those activities have long come to an end. Leadership over the years have made their voices clear about the MNO's harmful approaches that infringe on First Nations rights; maintaining our sovereignty and jurisdiction remains at the forefront of our advocacy.

The last week of January was full of activity with several important initiatives and engagement efforts across sectors.

Most notably, members of the Executive, along with a number of Chiefs, participated in an expert panel on the legislative review of the Cannabis Act. Leaders were able to talk about community priorities regarding cannabis including, jurisdiction and public safety, economic development, banking, taxation and revenue sharing, public health, and harm reduction. Later in the week, senior health officials met in Toronto to discuss the Health Transformation efforts of the Anishinabek Nation and support for the feasibility as we explore health authority models and how they can benefit our communities.

We ended the week with a riveting webinar with special guests from Grand Council Treaty #3 who talked about how their governance approach is entrenched in concepts of nationhood and traditional principles of the Anishinaabe. We are inspired by the work that Grand Council Treaty #3 does on behalf of their citizens, and we look forward to more nation-building efforts in the near future.

Notable Meetings:

- Dec 20: Minister Gary Anandasangaree
- Jan 18: Special Investigations Unit
- Jan 22: Expert Panel on Cannabis
- Jan 23: Ministry of Health Senior Health Officials Meeting
- Jan 25: Governance Webinar with Grand Council Treaty 3: Manitou Aki Toolkit
- Feb 5: Trauma-informed training
- Feb 7: Child Well-being Working Group
- Feb 9: Thunder Bay Police Service Board Co-chair meeting
- Feb 12: Online News Act Meeting with Ministry of Canadian Heritage
- Feb 13-15: 8th Annual Lands and Resources Forum
- Feb 15: Chiefs Council on Governance
- February 22: Nation Council and Commissioners Meeting
- Feb 22: Standing Committee on Justice Policy (Ontario) - Bill 157

Upcoming Meetings and events:

- Regional meetings in April
- Grand Council Assembly June 4-5
- Anishinaabe Giizhigad June 6



Temagami First Nation Chief Shelly Moore-Frappier, Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe, Senator Yonah Martin, Nipissing First Nation Chief Scott Mcleod, Algonquins of Pik-wàkanagàn Chief Greg Sarazin, Northern Superior Deputy Grand Council Chief Mel Hardy at the Chiefs of Ontario Lobby Day on Parliament Hill, December 5, 2023



Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe, Southeast Kwe-Wuk Advisory member Nora Sawyer, and Anishinabek Nation Chief Water Commissioner Autumn Peltier met at an exhibit on Autumn's work at the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau, Quebec on January 11.



Northern Superior Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief Mel Hardy spoke at the 8th Annual Lands and Resources forum held in North Bay on Feb. 13.



Southeast Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief JimBob Marsden and Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe met with Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Gary Anandasangaree in Scarborough on Dec. 20, 2023 to discuss topics such as recognizing Namaygoosisagun as a First Nation, Justice, Indian Residential School support, Anishinaabemowin immersion and the *Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement Act*.



Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe and Citizenship Commissioner Jeannette Corbiere Lavell at the Assembly of First Nations, December 6, 2023.



Southeast Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief JimBob Marsden participated in the Nation Council/Commissioners meeting held in Chippewas of Rama First Nation on Feb. 22.



Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe met with former Grand Council Chief John Beaucage to discuss the past relationship between the Anishinabek Nation and Métis Nation of Ontario.

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"Several years ago, I used to swim in the river. I used to drink the water in the river. In 1959, it said do not swim in the river, it's polluted. The youth have now initiated a study on how polluted the river is."

Katelyn Peters, citizen of Munsee Delaware Nation and the Southwest Region representative for the Eshki-niigijig Advisory Council, shared her thoughts during the Nation Councils Panel on Day 1 of the Forum.

During the Anishinabek Nation Councils Panel, Munsee Delaware Nation citizen Katelyn Peters of the Eshki-niigijig Advisory Council spoke about the need for updating youth at Anishinabek Nation gatherings.

"It is something the whole Eshki-niigijig Council has been wanting to do more of and be more proactive about is hold more regional sessions for the youth in our area. I think this would be a good opportunity to have these sorts of conversations, for example, on lands, water, resources...And some really great feedback that we had from this was at our Thunder Bay youth gathering in August...All of the youth that was at that gathering had something to say with regards to their community and the struggles that they were facing and how all the issues connect despite what region they are from."

Paul Parete is the Environment and Climate Change Canada Great Lakes Program Officer. He led a presentation on Great Lakes: Lakewide Action and Management Plans Work Plan where discussions entailed a plan revealing the state of the ecosystems on how the lakes are doing and what stressors are on the lakes and the actions needing to be taken.

Afternoon sessions included the Ministry of Mines: Abandoned Mine Rehabilitation Program, Invasive Species Pathways and Prevention, as well as a new multimedia Initiative Biinaagami with Canadian Geographic and the Anishinabek Nation Commissioner on Governance Patrick Madahbee. A giant map of the great lakes was spread on the floor for participants to explore. The initiative will gather information to be added to the map from the 200 First Nations living in the Great Lakes watershed before bringing Biinaagami: Our shared responsibility to the Great Lakes to schools in the fall.

Day two of the 8th annual Anishinabek Nation Lands and Resources Forum opened with Nipissing First Nation Ogimaa Scott McLeod sharing remarks, including stating that one of the biggest threats lately, besides climate change in our territories, is the assertion of Métis.

"We only have so much resources in our territories. And these are our homelands. We maintain that there's no distinct Métis Nations in our territories and they have no rights on our resources in our territories. We do acknowledge that the Métis Nations do exist and have a rich history, but it's just not here."

The Resource Development Panel on Forestry and Mining followed with Michipicoten First Nation's Mineral Development Advisor David Ruffo and Hugh Martel, the Forestry Coordinator of Nipissing First Nation.

Representatives from various Ontario Ministries including Mines, Northern Development, Natural Resources and Forestry, Indigenous Affairs, Environment, Conservation and Parks, and Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs shared an informative presentation on their respective ministry's functions and updates on February 14, 2024.

An informative presentation on Ontario Ministries of Mines, Northern Development, Natural Resources and Forestry, Indigenous Affairs, Environment, Conservation and Parks, and Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs included updates and insight into the function of each respective ministry. After-



Representatives from various Ontario Ministries including Mines, Northern Development, Natural Resources and Forestry, Indigenous Affairs, Environment, Conservation and Parks, and Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs shared an informative presentation on their respective ministry's functions and updates on February 14, 2024.



Nmishomis Leroy Dolson (Southwest), Britnee Waindubence, Lance Copegog, Katelyn Peters, Terra Roy, Nmishomis Mike Esquega (Northern Superior) and Pierre Debassige.



Paul Parete (far right) and team members with the Environment and Climate Change Canada discuss Great Lakes: Lakewide Action and Management Plans on Day 1 of the Anishinabek Nation Lands and Resources Forum.

wards, Growing Solutions for Agriculture and Food Panel took place followed by break-out sessions.

On the Forum's final day, Ian Ketcheson of Impact Assessment Agency of Canada presented then Anishinabek Nation's Legal Department Director Fred Bellefeuille explained the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), saying it is equal to human rights, which are

part of the highest rights in Canada and society must accommodate human rights to the point of undue hardship.

"I was motivated to become a lawyer because in 1978, my grandma who could barely walk, I had to help her walk, I was 14 years old...because she was charged by the Ministry of Natural Resources for fishing out of season. She really got me to fight for our rights."

Director of Lands and Resources and Economic Development Jason Laronde spoke of the consideration of future plans for the Anishinabek Nation Lands and Resources Forum to be held in communities.

Closing the 8th annual Anishinabek Nation Lands and Resources Forum, Gookmis Evelyn McLeod shared a prayer followed by a Travelling Song by the Boys from the Bay on Mother Earth Drum.

New interactive tool to protect Great Lakes Biinaagami showcased

By Kelly Anne Smith

NORTH BAY— All of the Great Lakes have seen declining levels as a result of dry weather, evaporation, and runoff throughout the fall. Lake Superior and Lake Ontario experienced large declining monthly water levels for November.

Now a new interactive multimedia educational tool is being perfected to teach school children about the importance of the Great Lakes and how it is everyone's responsibility to protect the water.

Biinaagami: Our Shared Responsibility to the Great Lakes was unveiled at the Anishinabek Nation's 8th Land and Resources Forum, Kina-Gego-Naabadosin – Everything is Connected, in North Bay from February 13-15.

The Anishinabek Nation Commissioner on Governance Patrick Wadaseh Madahbee and Director of Special Projects for Canadian Geographic Meredith Brown presented the concept and process of Biinaagami: Our Shared Responsibility to The Great Lakes. Volunteer-led group, Swim Drink Fish, is also a partner in this project.

Madahbee talked of the beginnings of the Great Lakes Guardian Council when he was Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief.

"I was the co-chair of the Great Lakes Guardian Council with Glen Murray, the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change for the province. The initiatives to protect the Great Lakes culminated in a session we had with Josephine Mandamin-baa... talking about the important role of water, water's living spirit, and of course, the important role that our women play as the water keepers."

At the time, Madahbee was introduced to Mark Mattson, the founder of Swim Drink Fish, who focuses on keeping water swimmable, drinkable, and fishable, as well as The Royal Canadian Geographic Society. Now

they all work together on Biinaagami.

Madahbee spoke about Anishinabek Nation Language Commissioner Barbara Nolan of Garden River First Nation and Language Keeper Donna Debassige of Wiikwemkoong First Nation naming the project. Biinaagami in Anishinaabemowin translates to clean, pure water. The women are featured in a Water Ceremony in a Biinaagami video. Madahbee says "our language is so descriptive, it comes with teachings and lessons."

"The education component is really exciting! We're going to be going into schools to talk about water, but we are going to be engaging with this concept of shared responsibility of creating engagements and alliances with different people, whether it's individuals, companies, industry, and different levels of government to really ensure this precious resource—we have over 20 per cent of the world's fresh water in this area of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Basin—and how important that is to keep this water pure and pristine."

During their presentation, a huge map of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Basin was laid out in the conference room for participants to explore through augmented reality. Participants were able to take in experiential learning by scanning a QR code with their phones for interactive 3D visuals and inclusive storytelling to appear.

"It's a chance for us to put down our names— Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe, and Inuit names— and Indigenous groups that are around the water bodies, the real names of those water bodies. Because a lot of the names of the water bodies are not the real names of those places. But also, as well for people to tell their stories about their water body."

Meredith Brown says the project aims to help people understand that there are over 200 sovereign First Nations in the watershed.



Patrick Madahbee joined participants on the map to help navigate through the tool and share stories. - Photo by Kelly Anne Smith

"That is something that is news to a lot of non-Indigenous people," she added.

Brown described what will be seen on the enormous Biinaagami map.

"You'll see all the different Original People's languages embedded into the map. You'll see the names of your communities on the map. We're working on putting placenames on the map...A big part is to really help kind of change the frame of how people think about water to the way all of you think about water as a relation as a living being... What we really hope is that when people are making decisions, whether they are individual decisions, government decisions, they put the health of the Great Lakes watershed in that decision-making."

As participants gathered on the Biinaagami map to view their community's waterbodies, Patrick Madahbee talked about the warm winter season we are experiencing.

"This one in particular is very warm. It's probably the first of many, many changes we are going to see with climate change happen-

ing. And it's ironic that so many people don't think climate change is real. You hear that nonsense south of the border where guy's like Trump discredit anybody talking about climate change. But open their eyes, it's happening. Water levels are changing. Temperatures are changing, snow fall levels. Mother Nature is fighting back to a large extent as well. I mean, that's why there are so many forest fires. You see drought. You see flooding. Every kind of possible scenario is happening because I think again, Mother Earth has a way of balancing things out over time."

Madahbee talked about having the Biinaagami: Our Shared Responsibility to The Great Lakes touring schools this coming fall.

"Why it's really important to get information into the schools is that they're the future lawyers. They're the future politicians. They're the future policy makers and technical people and experts that are going to be the new generation that's going to make decisions about what's going to happen. That's why it's so important to talk to them."

Eshki-niigijig Advisory Council dedicated to the personhood of the Great Lakes

By Kelly Anne Smith

NORTH BAY— During the Anishinabek Nation Councils Panel at the Anishinabek Nation's 8th Land and Resources Forum, Kina-Gego-Naabadosin – Everything is Connected, in North Bay from February 13-15., Eshki-niigijig Advisory Council member Lance Copegog of Beausoleil First Nation talked of important work being done to protect the Great Lakes.

The panel had members from the Anishinabek Nation Getzidjig Advisory Council including Nmishomis Leroy Dolson of Munsee Delaware Nation and Nmishomis Mike Esquega of Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinabek. The panel also featured Eshki-niigijig Advisory Council members Brittnee Waindubence of Shequiandah First Nation, Terra Roy of Beausoleil First Nation, Pierre Debassige of M'Chigeeng First Nation, and Katelyn Peters of Munsee Delaware Nation.

Peters shared her perspective as urban Indigenous youth, introducing spirituality on how we view the water.

"When it comes to the people who are watching this, it doesn't only have to be [Indigenous people], it could also be white people. Because when I was in university in my Indigenous Studies courses, there are a lot of great, amazing white people who really want to help our people and who are going to be running this country in twenty years.

They need to understand why do Anishinabe people respect the water? How do they see the water because they might not be exposed to that in any other capacity."

Copegog spoke of being gathered at the 2024 Anishinabek Nation Lands and Resources Forum because of the commitment to the lands and resources of the Anishinabek Nation's communities. He spoke of innovative solutions that can be worked on together when facing challenges.

"We're very committed to carrying forward some of the work we've started with the women's councils such as the work on securing the personhood of water."

Copegog explained the Eshki-niigijig Advisory Council has been working with the women's council on the personhood of water initiative.

"We began this in the springtime of 2023. Since then, we have had a chiefs resolution that was passed to support it. We have met with former Minister Piccini (of Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks or MECP) and the new Minister Andrea Khan-jin. We are looking to MECP for their support and for them to work with us to ensure we get this implemented because I think it's such an important initiative to not only have the youth and the women working together on the initiative, but I think when you look internationally and at New Zealand, I think

there's a lot of good examples that we can look to for how they recognize that."

Copegog says work has been undertaken on a program where other bodies of water have the recognition of personhood.

"Our knowledge is that water has life. I think we're just trying to blend the contemporary knowledge with traditional knowledge. I think this conference we have today is important where we have our youth and Elders and our experts coming in to talk about how we blend both. Our panel discussion we had today is really relevant to that. I'm really interested to see what comes of it but we really are looking to MECP for their support."

Copegog explains the personhood of nature.

"It really does mean that the body of water is recognized as a person with the legal rights that a person has. Our knowledge, our understanding of water is that it does have life. The women have their responsibility to protect water. When we talk about governance and we talk about self-determination, I think it's so important that we're implementing our own laws. And again Ontario, Canada, I think they can be a partner to that," he stated. "I know we have a lot of momentum within the Anishinabek Nation politically. This is an opportunity for us to get the input from our experts in Lands and Resources. There's momentum from Anishinabek



Eshki-niigijig Advisory Council member Lance Copegog of Beausoleil First Nation talked of important work being done to protect the Great Lakes.

- Photo by Laura Barrios

Nation but we are not seeing that from the government. That's where that disconnect is happening. But I know, regardless of any MECP support, we are going to work very hard to make sure we have that personhood recognized."

"Water is life," reminds Brittnee Waindubence of Shequiandah First Nation and a Eshki-niigijig Advisory Council member. "We carry children in our stomach. The womb has water and water is a spirit. Everything has spirit. If we didn't have it, we wouldn't survive. We would be nothing without our biish that's why we need to protect it because that's how we live. We need our biish to be clean for the next generation to come. We need to show them how to protect our water and to keep our waterways clear."

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Anishinabek Nation Health Transformation Team continues to work towards enhanced health care

By Jesse Johnson

NORTH BAY – The Anishinabek Nation's Health Transformation Team has been busy this fall. The Team has held multiple engagement sessions; organized a Working Group meeting in North Bay and a regional session in Thunder Bay for the Northern Superior First Nations; and, took its Business Case to Ottawa for further review by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC).

The Health Transformation Team held its first Regional Engagement Session on Nov. 2 in Thunder Bay with Chief and Council members and Elders from the Northern Superior First Nations, the Team was able to raise awareness of Health Transformation while listening to the concerns and challenges communities are currently dealing with.

"The Regional session was very informative for our team as it provided us with more time to engage with those who were in attendance. We listened to them as they shared stories about the issues they are currently facing and it was exciting to hear some of the ideas they had to better align programs and services to better suit their needs. There is an opportunity for change and Health Transformation is a step in the right direction to make it happen," says Loretta Nootchtai, Health Transformation Project Manager.

The Health Transformation Team has plans to return to Thunder Bay early next year to share updated information and continue engagement efforts within the region.

Prior to the regional meeting, the Team organized a Working Group meeting in North Bay. Participants had the opportunity

to listen to a panel discussion with legal counsellors from the Anishinabek Nation. Three Working Group members shared updates and information on their community's programs and services.

On the panel was Fred Bellefeuille, Legal Director for the Anishinabek Nation; Tracey O'Donnell, Legal Counsel for Kinooaadziwin Education Body; Katrina Langevin, Negotiations Research Coordinator and Ronnie George, Prevention Services Coordinator for Koganaawsawin; and, Fran Couchie, former Director of Education for Nipissing First Nation.

"We had some incredible professionals on our panel. Those four bring tons of knowledge and experience and our Working Group was fortunate to hear from them," says Lisa Restoule-Brazier, Health Transformation Engagement and Working Group Coordinator.

In September, team members travelled to B.C. to listen and learn from B.C.'s First Nation Health Authority (BCFNHA), allowing them to see how the BCFNHA works as a final product and gain a better understanding of the more detailed processes they underwent through development.

"We learned an incredible amount of information from the BCFNHA. It's important to see how things could look for the Anishinabek Nation – if that's what our people want. We still have a lot of work to do, but we're moving forward in a positive way," says Nootchtai.

The Team learned about many topics including, health benefits; primary care and



The Health Transformation Team met with representatives from the Northern Superior Region First Nations on Nov. 2 in Thunder Bay, Ont.

virtual services; regional structure; governance structure; cultural safety and humility; mental health and wellness; and healing and trauma.

In late September, some members of the Health Transformation Team travelled to Ottawa to present the Business Case to ISC. If approved, the Business Case will give the Health Transformation Team more funding so that they can organize more engagements with the Chief and Councils and community members.

In response to the Fall 2023 Anishinabek Nation Grand Council resolution #2023-05, the Health Transformation Team submitted a Business Case to FNIHB of ISC to secure

funding for the next level of engagement and explored the feasibility of an Anishinabek Nation Health Authority.

"The Business Case was well-received, and we are hopeful that the federal budget will include continued funding for Anishinabek Nation Health Transformation," says Health Transformation's Fiscal Analyst, John Scherebnyj.

The Working Group's next meeting will take place on January 24 and 25 at the Casino Rama Resort in Chippewas of Rama First Nation.

For more information about Health Transformation, please visit health-transformation.ca.

Calls for Justice information session brings awareness to MMIWG

By Rick Garrick

THUNDER BAY — The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Team held a Calls for Justice information sharing event on Feb. 2 at the Intercity Shopping Centre in Thunder Bay. The 231 Calls for Justice were delivered in the Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, which is posted online.

"I honour and respect the work you are doing here to bring justice, to bring some respect for us to continue cherishing our Anishinabekwe across the region of Ontario — it's important," says Fort William Councillor Desiree Morriveau-Shields during her opening comments at the Calls for Justice event. "I too get emotional; I have three young girls and I worry. I want all Anishinabekwe to be cherished just as I cherish my girls, they deserve respect, they deserve justice when respect is not given, and that's everyone's job here, everyone who is standing in this room, across Thunder Bay, across Ontario, all of our communities."

OPP Constable Tanya Kutschke, an Algonquins of Pikwākanagān First Nation citizen, says part of her job with the OPP Indigenous Policing Bureau's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Team is to implement the Calls for Justice that are related to police services.

"We look after ensuring that all five

regions within the OPP are addressing what Calls for Justice apply to their area," Kutschke says. "As well, we work with another agency called the Family Information Liaison Unit — this unit was mandated by the National Inquiry and they look after taking requests from family members that have a lost one or loved one that has been a victim of MMIWG. Usually the requests come to us where the family has questions about the investigation."

Kutschke says they have a detective constable on the MMIWG Team who looks into what information can be provided to the families.

"We've had a total of 35 requests that we've investigated and spoke with the family," Kutschke says. "We have a healing circle and the families are very appreciative of this information."

Thunder Bay Police Constable Sharlene Bourdeau, a Pays Plat citizen and member of the Animikii Wiikwedong-Deweigan drum group, spoke about the Tree of Hope, which was started in 2019 in front to the Thunder Bay Police building with the hope of honouring all the victims, families, and relatives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirited.

"The first year, we were the only service that had the Tree of Hope," Bourdeau says, noting that the Tree of Hope had 4,000 red lights representing the names of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls



Thunder Bay Police Const. Sharlene Bourdeau speaks about establishing the Thunder Bay Police's Tree of Hope during the OPP Calls for Justice information sharing event on Feb. 2 at the Intercity Shopping Centre in Thunder Bay.

across the country. "As of this year, there's 26 police services in the province, so let's give all the police services a hand for joining that. My hope is to have trees with red lights across the country from all three coasts. That would be just awesome to have trees lit right across the country in memory of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls."

OPP Detective Staff Sergeant Alana Morrison says the OPP began participating

in the Tree of Hope initiative in 2022.

"Because we've got five regions within the OPP, we created a toolkit for the Tree of Hope," Morrison says. "It explains why we are doing it, it tells you exactly what to do, and when it takes place. It's always the first Sunday after Remembrance Day and it explains everything, what each light represents, a Missing or Murdered Indigenous Woman and Girl."

Sheshegwaning First Nation pushes historical change in voting protocol

By Kirk Titmuss

SHESEGWANING FIRST NATION - In a historical shift in governance policy, Anishinabek First Nations' traditional and customary community decision-making processes will now be recognized by Canada as the method of choice to add their communities to the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement Act fold. Schedule C – Protocol for the Addition of a First Nation as a Party to the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement - was given Royal Consent on December 1, 2023. The move comes after Anishinabek Nation officials pushed for an amendment to Section 14.6 of the Agreement, a federal policy that caused many Anishinabek Nation First Nations to fail to ratify the deal by the October 1, 2022, deadline.

The original Agreement required communities to adhere to a voting threshold that restricted their ability to gather enough support and pass the vote. Communities wanting to conduct a vote had to have 25% plus one of their eligible voters vote and the majority of those that did vote, vote YES.

For most Anishinabek First Nations, about 75% of their citizens live off-reserve, making it difficult or nearly impossible to meet Canada's threshold requirement.

Communities that came close to ratifying the Agreement were able to hold a second, simple majority vote; however, for some, carrying out another vote created mistrust in the process. Social media was rife with conspiracy theories and calls for communities to avoid the Anishinabek Nation change in voting protocol Governance Agreement altogether. That, combined with the obstacles caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, saw many second votes failing as well.

In 2020, Sheshegwaning First Nation refused to follow the Agreement's voting protocols and stuck to their customary way of reaching consensus for the Agreement. Canada, however, would not recognize their process and put Sheshegwaning's bid for inclusion in B'Maakonigan - the central governing body - in limbo.

During a governance meeting with Sheshegwaning First Nation on Dec. 12, 2023, Agreement lead negotiator, Martin Bayer, commended the community for standing its ground and helping initiate the amendment to the Agreement.

"What this Schedule C, this protocol does, is really put in place what you decided and the position you took back in 2020 where you said the result is in satisfaction and in accordance with our normal procedures and First Nation approval."

Bayer also remarked how quickly Canada pushed the amendment through, taking only a year to draft and pass the new protocol legislation that officially recognizes a First Nation's right to make decisions - like voting on the Governance Agreement - through its self-determined community approval process.

Sheshegwaning First Nation Chief Alana Endanawas said she was overjoyed that her community played such a role in the "crucial revisions" to Schedule C of the Agreement.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to have our voices heard and to contribute to the ongoing progress towards decolonization and self-determination."

Others attending the meeting included Anishinabek Nation Commissioner on Governance Patrick Madahbee who also praised Sheshegwaning's contribution to the de-



Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement Lead Negotiator, Martin Bayer and Governance Commissioner Patrick Madahbee were part of a delegation that met in Sheshegwaning First Nation December 2023, to discuss the success of Sheshegwaning's stance on voting protocol for the Agreement. -Photo by Kirk Titmuss

velopment of Schedule C.

"You guys are the ones that started this. This is a national precedent."

Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe echoed Commissioner Madahbee's remarks commending Sheshegwaning for leading the Agreement's ratification process changes.

"With the new amendment and ratification process with the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement, we're finally using our own processes to approve agreements within our communities. That process may differentiate from nation to nation but in the end, this is a community (Sheshegwaning) that has guided us and decided on the process they will use. This is cause for celebration as we have once again moved away from Can-

ada's colonial agenda for our nations."

Grand Council Chief Niganobe says at least three more communities are looking at becoming part of B'Maakonigan due to the amendment.

B'Maakonigan CEO Leslie McGregor is also pleased with Canada's Schedule C amendment. She feels it represents a brighter future for the Anishinabek Nation and another step away from the Indian Act.

"Now referred to as the First Nation Approval Process, this progressive process acknowledges and upholds the importance of community decision-making rooted in Anishinabek traditions and customs. This new process marks another milestone in the ongoing journey towards self-determination."

Biigtigong Nishnaabeg celebrate the opening of its new elementary school

By Rick Garrick

BIIGTIGONG NISHNAABEG — Biigtigong Nishnaabeg recently celebrated the opening of its new Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Endzhi-gkinoohmaading elementary school with a march from the old to the new school on Feb. 12.

"The students were led to the new school with a march led with the big Grandfather Drum with our singers," says Lisa Michano-Courchene, education director at Biigtigong Nishnaabeg. "They followed the drum and the project team over to their new school. On both sides of the road, the community watched them and were basically giving out cheers. [It was] very emotional and they were full of excitement to see the kids marching down the road to their new school."

Michano-Courchene says the new school was smudged by seven Grandmothers before the students explored their new classrooms and the rest of the school along with their teachers, adding that their parents joined them at lunch.

"It was beyond words trying to describe their expressions on their faces, their reactions," Michano-Courchene says. "The realization that that building was theirs and that was their school and that was their gym

was extremely exciting and brought tears to many eyes."

Michano-Courchene says the new school is almost three times the size of the old school and has space for 175 students.

"We're presently at 75 so it's built to include an increasing population," Michano-Courchene says. "The biggest feature is probably the gym because prior to that in the history of education in the community, there's never been a gym for the students exclusively, it's always been a shared community hall to do indoor programming. There's also a land-based and cultural classroom where a lot of traditional activities can take place."

Michano-Courchene says there have been a lot of emotions expressed by people in the community about the opening of the new school, which also features a library, stage, and main cafeteria area with a serving kitchen.

"It just was overall an emotional good feeling to see the students finally get an adequate facility that they deserve," Michano-Courchene says.

Michano-Courchene says it was a long process to get the new school built, noting that it was supported and pushed by numerous elected leaders in addition to the current



Biigtigong Nishnaabeg recently celebrated the opening of its new Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Endzhi-gkinoohmaading elementary school on Feb. 12. - Photo supplied

Chief and Council.

"It's been that long, six, maybe eight years, where feasibility studies started," Michano-Courchene says. "We had community engagement visioning sessions with students and parents asking what do they see, what do they want to see in the school reflective of our community."

Michano-Courchene says some of the features of the new school are the use of natural wood and natural lighting in the hallway. The new school also has its own below-ground water reservoir and fire pump system for sprinkler protection.

"There are still a few things yet to be done, landscaping on the outside, the play structures, it will encompass a lit ball field, a soccer field, some natural play areas, a fire pit, walking trails and some of the design on front," Michano-Courchene says. "We have a floral design that will be added to the front

of the building that was done by a local artist as well as inside we will see a life-sized birch tree that was created by a private company."

Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Chief Duncan Michano says the children and people of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg have waited a long time for the new school in a previous news release. The old school was built in the 1950s.

"We would like to thank the federal government for their assistance and to Minister [Patty] Hajdu for her advocacy on this important project," Chief Michano says in a previous news release. "The new school will allow our students and staff to learn and work in an environment that is culturally appropriate and is something that they can be proud of. I also want to thank the planning team for all their hard work to make this happen. Miigwech."



CELEBRATE
Anishinabek Giizhigad
on June 6

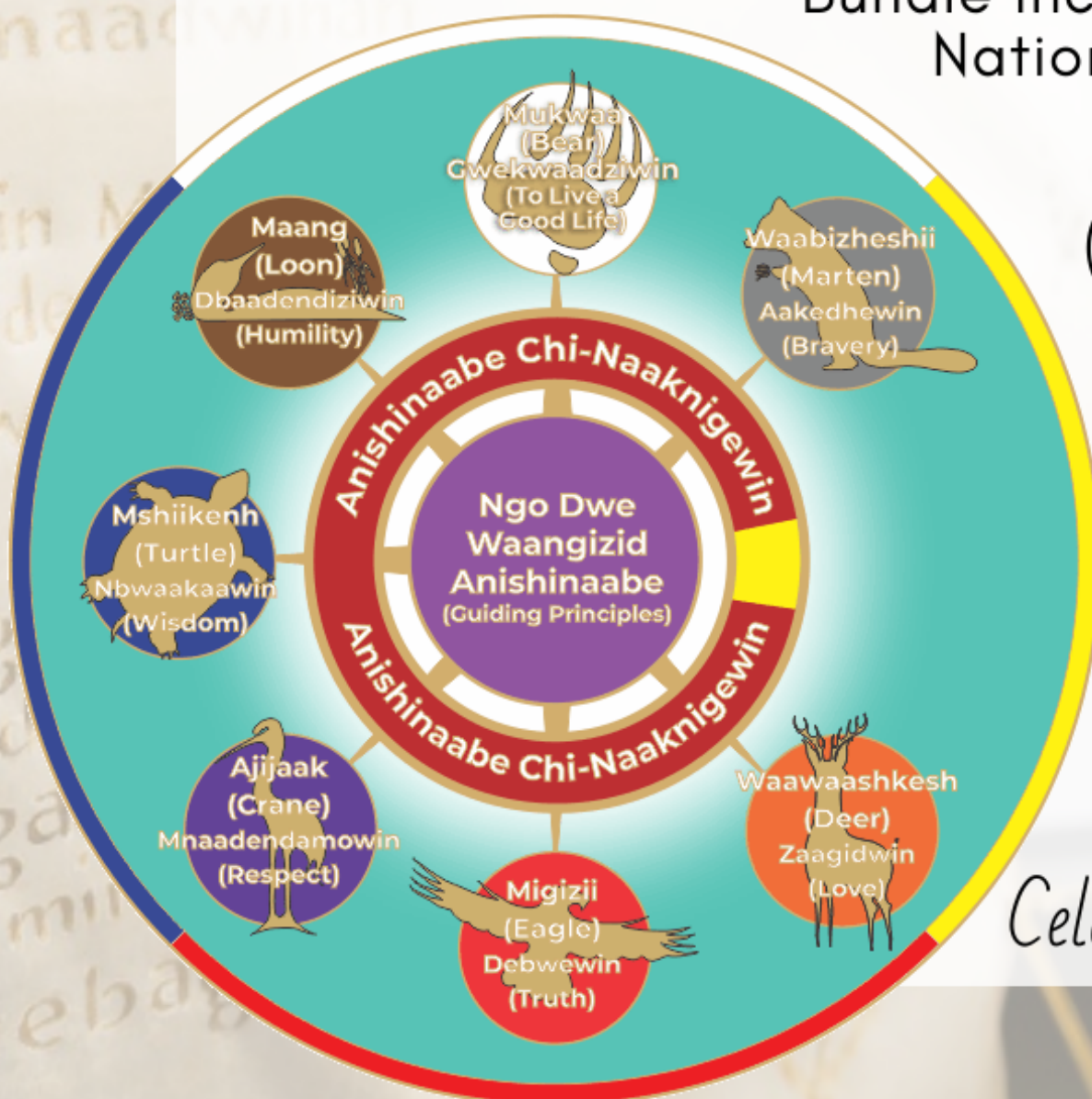
What is Anishinabek Giizhigad?

Anishinabek Giizhigad celebrates the proclamation of the Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin (Anishinabek Nation Constitution) that took place on June 6, 2012, at the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Assembly.

The Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin was confirmed by Pipe Ceremony and therefore, is a sacred commitment by Anishinabek to live by Anishinaabe Law: Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe (One Anishinaabe Family). This means acquiring Anishinaabemowin (Language) and Anishinaabe Inaadziwin (Culture). These are the source of Nationhood: Unity and Identity. Anishinaabe Aadziwin includes Anishinaabe Governance.

We have everything that we need in our Sacred Bundle including the Anishinabek Nation Eagle Staff (National Flag), Three Fires Confederacy Song (National Anthem), and Seven Sacred Gifts. This is the foundation for Anishinabek and also the way forward: Gwekwaadziwin – To Live A Good Life as instructed by Anishinaabe Elders.

Celebrate being Anishinaabe!



HEALTH TRANSFORMATION ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

The Anishinabek Nation's Health Transformation Team is in the first phase of their engagement sessions. Phase one is introducing Health Transformation to interested Chiefs, Councils and health experts from our 39 Member First Nations.

The Team is available to meet and discuss Health Transformation and what that means for your community. We will present our information, answer your questions, and explain how Health Transformation can benefit Anishinaabe.

The Team is available to meet through Zoom or in-person at your convenience.



Please contact Lisa Restoule-Brazier at
lisa.restoule@anishinabek.ca for more information

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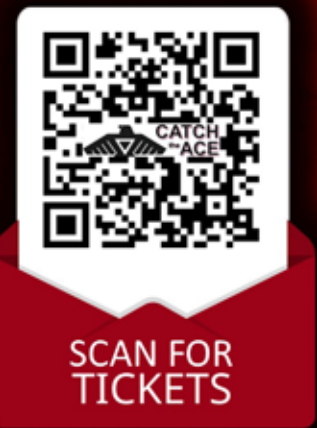
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Chef Nephi Craig to speak about Indigenous Foods for Health: Trauma, Violence, and Sugar at the 2nd Annual Anishinabek Nation Diabetes Conference, Embracing Diabetes with Knowledge and Care scheduled on March 6-7 in Chippewas of Rama First Nation. - Photo by Ari Craig

Indigenous chef Nephi Craig to present at Anishinabek Nation 2nd Annual Diabetes Conference

By Rick Garrick

CHIPPEWAS OF RAMA FIRST NATION — Indigenous chef Nephi Craig looks forward to speaking about Indigenous Foods for Health: Trauma, Violence, and Sugar at the 2nd Annual Anishinabek Nation Diabetes Conference, Embracing Diabetes with Knowledge and Care scheduled on March 6-7 at Casino Rama in Chippewas of Rama First Nation.

“My work is unique as an executive chef in that I have kind of a dual role as an executive chef and a clinician,” Craig says. “As a behavioural health technician and certified relapse prevention specialist, I work in mental health and we operate a café, Café Gozhóó, on the White Mountain Apache Tribe. We provide clinical services, we have prevention, vocational training in culinary arts and hospitality, and we work with clients in recovery on a regular basis.”

Craig says his path as an executive chef led him to his role, adding that he is also a person in recovery with 12 years of sobriety.

“We integrate Indigenous foods as an access to learning, reconnection and emotional, spiritual and physical well-being,” Craig says. “I’ve traveled internationally throughout my career; as a younger chef, I cooked in London, Germany, Japan, Brazil, Mexico, and Canada on various projects all centering around Indigenous food and food ways. I’ve been doing this work 26 years this year and it’s something that I couldn’t have scripted — it’s an amazing opportunity to be able to do what I do. I combine all of the experiences of being a professional chef and also the clinical tools to provide services to people in recovery, just like myself.”

Craig says his presentation is a broad overview but also an in-depth look at health disparities across Indigenous communities.

“It’s very much place-based, but it’s also relevant to the international scale of the Indigenous experience,” Craig says. “It presents colonialism as a health disparity and challenges practitioners to utilize traditional ecological knowledge in their efforts to reach community members and tackle

whatever health disparity they might be up against, whether it’s diabetes, obesity, heart disease, suicidality, addiction, incarceration, a number of the common health disparities we face as Indigenous peoples.”

Craig says Indigenous food ways provide an integrated care modality that needs to be drawn out by place-based practitioners.

“I hope that my presentation can kind of illuminate some of those tools so that clinicians, community members, parents, and young people can leverage their Indigenous experience for health and wellness,” Craig says. “It’s a broad examination that’s historical but also very contemporary and frames it as a solution-based approach to public health.”

Craig says his work was recently featured in *Gather*, a documentary film that won a James Beard Award in 2022 for Documentary/Docuseries Visual Media.

“It’s on food sovereignty in the United States,” Craig says. “I’m one of five characters in that film and it documents the journey to open Café Gozhóó, and it mentions other areas of Native America within the United States.”

Craig was also the recipient of an honorary PhD in Visual Arts: Philosophy, Aesthetics and Art Theory from the Institute of Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts. He was also recently a nominee for the James Beard Foundation’s award for Best Chef: South-west.

The conference will also feature presentations by Nicole Redvers and Marc Hébert. Redvers, associate professor and director of Indigenous Planetary Health at the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry at Western University, is scheduled to speak about Bridging Indigenous Medicine Systems with Western Systems. And Marc Hébert, lead of Indigenous community health at Ontario Renal Network, division of Ontario Health, and Mallika Patil, senior specialist on Indigenous Kidney Health at Ontario Renal Network, division of Ontario Health, will share a presentation on Working Together to Improve Kidney Care.



Anishinabek Nation Advisory Councils, Commissioners, leadership and staff met in Chippewas of Rama First Nation on February 22 to discuss Nation Council and Commissioner roles as well as strategic planning. - Photos by Laura Barrios

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Record number of teams to compete at 50th annual Little NHL

By Sam Laskaris

MARKHAM – Officials with the Little Native Hockey League tournament have even more reason to celebrate now.

This year's tourney, often simply called the Little NHL, is hitting the big 5-0 this year.

The event, which was first held in 1971, technically should have celebrated its golden anniversary a few years ago, but because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the tourney was not held for three consecutive years, from 2020 through 2022.

As a result, this year marks the 50th time the tournament has been held.

Organizers are also ecstatic that a record number of squads will be participating at the event, which will be held Mar. 11-14, primarily in Markham.

The registration deadline for the tourney was Jan. 15. After various volunteers had checked that all applicants had properly submitted registrations and entry fees had been paid for, league officials announced on Sunday that a record 246 clubs would participate in this year's event.

"It's overwhelming," said Chico Ralf, the

acting president of the Little NHL executive. "It shows the love and dedication that our athletes and communities have for the Little NHL."

The previous participating record had been set in 2019 when 227 teams competed at the tournament, which was held in Mississauga that year.

Ralf said the entry list includes some newcomers.

"There are a couple of communities that are coming to the Little NHL for the first time," he said. "We're excited about that."

Ralf and other tournament organizers are also thrilled that a total of 38 girls' teams will be competing this year.

"And that's a record, too," Ralf said.

The Little NHL, first held in Little Current in 1971, had attracted a total of 17 clubs. The tourney is now the largest Indigenous youth hockey tournament in the province.

An estimated 4,000 players and team staff members will take part in this year's event. The majority of the matches will be held at various rinks in Markham; however,



Chico Ralf, the acting president of the Little NHL executive, is overwhelmed a record number of teams will compete at this year's tournament. - Photo supplied

arenas in Richmond Hill and Stouffville will also host some of the games.

"They're all in close proximity to each other," Ralf said of all the facilities that will be utilized during the tournament.

This year's Little NHL will also include a pair of related functions.

On Mar. 9, the event's 50th anniversary and induction gala will be held at the Hilton Toronto/Markham Suites Conference Centre & Spa.

A total of 15 individuals will be inducted

into the Little NHL Hall of Fame during a ceremony that evening. They will be inducted via three categories. There will be five inductees in each grouping. Those categories are Alumni Players, Builders of the Little NHL, and Friends of the Little NHL.

Meanwhile, the tourney's opening ceremonies will be held Mar. 10 from noon until 7:30 p.m. at the Markham Civic Centre.

The outdoor venue will include live entertainment, games and rides.

Wiikwemkoong celebrates graduating immersion instructors

By Rick Garrick

WIKWEMKOONG UNCEDED TERRITORY — The Wiikwemkoong Anishinaabemowin Department recently celebrated its third graduating class of 15 Anishinaabemowin immersion instructors on Dec. 1 at the Thunderbird Arena, following earlier training sessions in July and September.

"It was a community celebration honouring and acknowledging the immersion instructors we've graduated in our community, so there's 43 in total," says Andrew Manitowabi, Anishinaabemowin program manager in Wiikwemkoong. "Most are teachers, some have entered the school systems to be Anishinaabemowin specialists so they'll be instructing in the schools."

Manitowabi says the Wiikwemkoong Anishinaabemowin Department also opened up an Immersion House at 61 Amikook St. in Wiikwemkoong on Dec. 20.

"It's a language nest so some of the graduates will be working with the language nest," Manitowabi says. "We have newborns, zero-to-two, the parents bring their kids there and it's all in Anishinaabemowin, so it's full immersion from 8 (a.m.) to 4 p.m."

Manitowabi says the program is geared towards working parents but any family can be involved.

"The purpose of it is to create fluent speakers as Anishinaabemowin would be

their first language," Manitowabi says. "It's great for the families because these kids that will be learning Anishinaabemowin, they will be actually teaching their families, too, how to speak. It's also to ensure that our language does survive, [so] it's passed on to future generations."

Manitowabi says they also have a program from 4-8 p.m. geared towards families with older children or adults wanting to learn Anishinaabemowin.

"We're only in operation Monday to Friday, but we're probably going to be expanding into operating seven days a week in the future," Manitowabi says.

Manitowabi says the Anishinaabemowin Immersion Instructors program was led by Barbara Nolan, the Anishinabek Nation Language Commissioner.

"She is an Anishinaabemowin educator who has been working with languages all her life — she was the head instructor," Manitowabi says, noting that the graduates had a lot of pride in completing the program. "They've been able to break down some of their own internal obstacles because of residual effects from the Residential School and Indian Day School. Back then, they were punished for speaking Anishinaabemowin and now we're trying to celebrate that gift, so it's an emotional process."

Manitowabi says the community also expressed a lot of pride, gratitude, and



Agnes Manitowabi, centre left, was celebrated along with 14 other graduates from the third cohort of the Wiikwemkoong Anishinaabemowin Department's Anishinaabemowin Immersion Instructors program on Dec. 1 at the Thunderbird Arena. - Photo supplied

appreciation to the graduates for taking the time to learn the technical skills during the program.

"The instructors are realizing the importance of always speaking Anishinaabemowin," Manitowabi says. "There is a lot of hope and a lot of inspiration and a lot of dedication for us to ensure that Anishinaabemowin is passed down for the benefit of future generations."

Manitowabi says many of the past graduates are working in different positions in the education field in other territories such

as Chippewa of the Thames in an e-mail message.

"We would like these credentials to be recognized by post-secondary institutions and the Ontario [College of Teachers]," Manitowabi says in the message. "Our community will affirm who are fluent speakers of our language. The techniques, skills, and lessons taught through the Anishinaabemowin Immersion Instructor program will prepare our speakers to pass on our ancestral language for the benefit of future generations."



THE ANISHINABEK NATION INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL MONUMENT

We invite you to honour a loved one, living or deceased, from one of the **39 Anishinabek Nation member First Nations** who attended an **Indian Residential School** by submitting their name to be added to the Anishinabek Nation commemorative monument.

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Negotiations

in Child, Youth, and Family Well-Being

The Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Negotiations Team is currently negotiating a main table tripartite self-government agreement, and supporting bilateral fiscal agreements with the Province of Ontario, and the Government of Canada in the area of child, youth, and family well-being.

The main table continues to meet monthly, discussing pre-scheduled negotiation topics. Negotiators have also identified a need to hold topic-specific meetings for topics requiring in-depth discussion and/or legal analysis.

Prior to year-end of 2023, the negotiations teams successfully achieved completion of a final first draft of the Agreement.

The supporting bilateral fiscal tables continue to meet monthly, discussing funding needs in child, youth, and family well-being. Fiscal Framework Consultation Meetings have been conducted with Anishinabek First Nations implementing the *Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law*. The Team is now scheduling meetings with its six affiliated Anishinabek child well-being agencies.

Negotiation dates for all tables have been scheduled until mid-2024.

Contact: Katrina Langevin, Assistant Negotiator and Implementation Manager

Email: katrina.langevin@anishinabek.ca

ANISHINABEK NATION



WAMPUM BELT PUZZLE

504  PIECE
59.5 x 42 cm (23.4 x 16.5")



WAMPUM BELT PHOTOGRAPHY BY RYAN PEPLINSKIE
BACKGROUND IMAGES COURTESY REGAN PICTURES
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ANISHINABEK NATION CIRCLE PROCESS

We are now accepting applications for individuals interested in Circle Process Training.



About the Circle Process

The Anishinabek Nation Circle Process (Circle Process or ANCP) is a culturally-based, voluntary, child-centered, confidential circle, providing Anishinabek First Nation families with the support needed to create a plan that addresses child and youth well-being issues.

This non-judgmental approach assists Anishinabek children, youth, and families in creating solutions to family conflict, provided in a safe space, using the guiding principles of:

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- Connection to community and culture

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About Our Training

Circle Process Training is delivered in two one-week periods, totalling 60 hours across 10 sessions. In the final step of training:

- ELDERS provide support to Circle participants.
- FACILITATORS, upon community requests, can be scheduled for Circles (that do not involve the court system) within their respective region.

Eligibility for Training

ELDERS: applicants to join the roster for Circle Process Elders are Indigenous with lived experience. They are recognized and endorsed by their community as a support.

FACILITATORS: applicants to join the roster for Circle Process Facilitators are Indigenous and possess relevant experience, e.g. social services, law, mediation, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), etc.

Questions or want to learn more?

Contact the Circle Process Team at:
circle.process@anishinabek.ca

Visit our new website:
koganaawsawin.ca



Presented by the
Anishinabek Nation Health Secretariat



SAVE THE DATE

10th Annual **Anishinabek Nation Health Conference**

OCTOBER 22 - 24, 2024

Quattro Hotel and Conference Centre, Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Please watch for your chance to submit a conference theme in Anishinaabemowin that promotes a health and wellness lifestyle.

There will also be a call-out for keynote and workshop presenters in the coming months.

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THE TONY H. JOCKO MEMORIAL HEROES IN HEALTH AWARD